

The Norman Conquest

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In spite of a world of difficulties he
refused to
temporise; in March, 1074, he hurled
the Ban
against Guiscard and Richard.
It could not
arrest the death-struggle of Norman
and Lombard,
In May, 1076, Robert besieged
Salerno by land
and sea; Greeks and Saracens
despatched by Roger
swelled his forces; and the fleet of
Amalfi com-
manded the harbour, Gisulf made a
gallant and
desperate resistance; his people
showed a like
resolution, and held out until the stress
of hunger
became too great, On the night of the
13th
December, Salerno was taken amid
the usual
of slaughter; Gisulf, however, awakened
from sleep, escaped to the castle,
whose situation
on the high hill a thousand feet above
the town
was one of the most impregnable and
difficult in
Italy, There he held out till the last
days of May,
1077, but resistance was useless
against the Nor-
man posts which surrounded the whole
base of the
hill; he surrendered the castle and
after an in-
terview in which Robert showed little
generosity
abandoned for ever the city where his
race had
been lords for over three hundred
years, The
end of the last great Lombard was that
of a land-

less wanderer; after haunting the
Papal court for
some years, a last ray of glory fell on
him when in
1088 Amalfi, in revolt against Guiscard's
son, took
Mm for lord, Somewhere about 1090
he ended
his troubled in solitude and poverty
in the
region of the Sarno.
Naples alone survived the general
overthrow